**IT Applications Unit 3, AOS 1, Online Communities**

Complete the following, from Chapter 2, Online Communities, pgs, 51-58

**Website that support online communities**

**Wikis**

1. Describe the nature of a wiki.

A wiki is a website that enables users to collaborate with content entering the data and communally editing its content.

1. What are strengths of wikis?

A key strength of a wiki is the fact that it can tap into various peoples immense knowledge in developing a complete page on the information. While another being that most are open on the internet for users to view and edit the pages.

1. Distinguish between, public, protected and private wikis.

A public wiki is able to be accessed and altered by anyone, while a protected wiki restricts those who can edit content and lastly private wikis require username and password to view and alter content.

1. What is meant by soft security?

Soft security is a method of social control mechanisms, these include making disruptions less socially acceptable, accessible edit histories, hence discouraging as easier for implications to occur is vandalism occurs on the site.

**Blogs**

1. What is a blog?

A blog which is the contradiction of the words ‘web’ and ‘log’ is a website that only has one main page and acts like a online journal or diary with the single author broadcasting what it is doing, thinking, wanting ect.

1. Distinguish between a blog and a wiki.

A key distinguishable feature between a blog and a wiki is that an assortment of connected pages and multiple users are associated with a wiki where as a blog has only one main page and one author hence one perspective.

**Forums**

1. Describe the nature of a forum.

A forum is an online message board or discussion website that is used to support online communities engaging in information exchange.

1. What is a thread?

A thread is a collection of posts, displayed from oldest to latest, with a title it may contain any number of posts.

**Purpose of an online community:**

1. To broadcast information and events using various tools
   1. List tools for broadcasting information.

* A simple website
* A blog setup for a organisation
* An email mailing list
* A twitter account
* Integration via RSS
  1. What is a RSS feed?

A RSS or (Really Simple Syndication) Feed is used to allow users to receive content feeds from a variety of sources, including the latest news headlines once subscribed to. These can be embedded into websites, blogs or viewed via a web based news reader.

1. To facilitate discussions, collaboration & information using tools
   1. What is required for collaborative problem solving to work well?

Some of the key requirements for collaborative problem solving to work well includes the people working as a team, a clear purpose and a clearly documented process to prevent misunderstandings, likewise a common purpose and equal contribution of ideas goes far. Furthermore everyone should have equal access to all relevant information, people respective of each other and achievable goals.

* 1. Distinguish between synchronous and asynchronous collaboration.

Synchronous collaboration occurs when things are in synch ie real time, for example via chat or videoconferencing software. This compares to asynchronous which occurs in two different times and spaces ie with a email which the reciepit doesn’t see changes as they happen they only see what they receive.

1. To store and develop organisational knowledge
   1. List the tools for knowledge sharing and exchange.

Some of the normal tools that are utilised for sharing and exchange includes wikis, Microsoft sharepoint, groupware or content management systems.

**Characteristics of online communities, p 57**

Be aware of the following:

In setting up an online community characteristics of communities need to be taken into account:

1. Online communities appealing to gender groups

For example colours as darker shades suit males, likewise may be restricted to males only to enable confidentiality to be upheld.

1. Online communities appealing to special needs

For example ensuring that it caters for people visionally impaired or colour blind hence restricting certain colours and the degree of unnecessary content.

1. Online communities appealing to cultural needs

For example being restricted from using culturally insensitive material that may offend without a warning like those aboriginal who may have passed away warnings

1. Age-restrictive and age-targeted communities

For example putting in place methods to prevent minors from accessing mature content and age appropriate content ie bright colours for a kids site.

1. Access requirements need also to be considered, (open or closed).

For example is the content sensitive and hence should be authorisation protected or is it general information.

**Non-Technical Constraints on developing a website for a community, p 58**

1. Ensuring privacy in an online community
   1. Describe the strategies that co-ordinators can put in place to decrease the risk of privacy attacks.

To lower the risk of privacy attacks all requests for membership should be properly verified and may include a wait time before it can be accessed, passwords should have adequate security measures such as requiring min characters ect. lastly the community admins should be observant of the actions occurring by other users.

* 1. How does the Information Privacy Act protect privacy?

The information privacy act protects privacy as it puts the collector at a higher responsibility for the handling and collection of the information.

1. Copyright in online communities
   1. What copyright considerations need to be taken into account when setting up a community?

Often copyright can affect the setting up of community’s as items posted, talked about or thought of can go against a copyright law should it be posted.

1. Human rights requirements
   1. What is contained in the Human Rights & Responsibilities Charter that covers members’ freedom, respect, equality and dignity.

In the human rights and responsibility charter members’ freedom, respect, equality and dignity are covered by the guidelines that specify that the community shouldn’t

* Encourage hate crimes or religious vilifications of others
* Discriminate based on gender, culture or sexuality
* Encourage the victimisation of others, members or not
* Authorise or assist in the engagement of these activities.

1. Social online protocols
   1. What is meant by online protocols?

Online protocols similar to netiquette are protocols that govern how members must act online and how disagreements are to be resolved.